

SCHLEY-HODGSON LETTERS.

THEY ARE NOW ON RECORD IN THE COURT OF INQUIRY.

The Judge Advocate Reads Them, and They Are Identified by Hodgson—A "Sun" Editorial on the "Damn the Texas Colony" Excluded by the Court—Hodgson Explains That When Schley Gave the Order "Hard Aport" the Helm Was Already Aport—Important Correction Made in Lieutenant Schley's Testimony Regarding Schley's Blockade of the Harbor of Santiago.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5.—The Schley Court of Inquiry was in session for only two hours yesterday and Lieutenant-Commander Alton C. Hodgson was in the witness chair for nearly all that time. He did not have the opportunity of giving any important testimony, however, as most of the session was taken up with reading the correspondence printed in *THE SUN* this morning, that had passed between Admiral Schley and himself in regard to the colloquy on the bridge of the Brooklyn, which Hodgson acknowledged in his evidence yesterday had actually occurred. The hope of hearing more sensational disclosures in regard to the Brooklyn's keep brought an unusually large number of people to the navy yard. Fully half the spectators were women, many of them fashionably dressed who showed a keen interest in the proceedings. The reading of the letters was begun soon after Mr. Hodgson took the witness chair. The closest attention was paid to the reading, particularly to Hodgson's letters in response to Schley's appeal to him for a denial, in which Hodgson said that the colloquy had actually occurred and that his denial, which accompanied one of the communications, was intended only to apply to the verbal and not the substantial accuracy of the printed version. Interest quite as keen was shown during the reading of Hodgson's letters to Schley, asking for the publication of the full correspondence in order that he (Hodgson) might be vindicated of anything dishonorable and Schley's response that it would be improper to publish them, as the matter had become a subject of official inquiry, and his additional letter that the correspondence had been boxed up and could not conveniently be located. As each letter was produced it was identified by Mr. Hodgson, who sat in the witness chair a few feet from Admiral Schley, and it was read by Judge Advocate Lemly or his assistant, Mr. Rayner.

Mr. Hodgson was more composed when he took the witness chair this morning than he was during his testimony yesterday. During the reading of the letters, however, he became perceptibly nervous and his voice trembled whenever he answered questions. Admiral Schley sat back in his chair through this ordeal, stroking his moustache and imperial, but otherwise showing no sign that he was perturbed. At one time, when the Court withdrew to consider a disputed point, Admiral Schley went outside the bar and shook hands with a number of spectators, most of them ladies. He chatted with them pleasantly and seemed to be at his ease. Just before the Court returned he went over to Mr. Hodgson and they talked together for a moment or two. There was nothing in the manner of either officer to indicate that there had been any differences between them, or that Admiral Schley resented the damaging testimony given against him by Hodgson yesterday.

There were several points of interest in the brief testimony given by Mr. Hodgson today. One was a correction of his statement yesterday that the remark made by Schley, "Hard aport, Cook," when the Brooklyn turned away from the Spanish ships, should not have included the name of the Brooklyn's captain. Mr. Hodgson said also that he understood Capt. Cook's response to Commodore Schley, that the helm was already aport, came almost simultaneously with Schley's own, and that his understanding was that the helm had been put to port before the order was delivered. Another interesting point was Mr. Hodgson's objection to the use of the word "colloquy" by Capt. Lemly in referring to what had occurred on the "Brooklyn's bridge" in the battle of July 3. "The alleged colloquy," corrected Mr. Hodgson, when the Judge Advocate made reference to this noted conversation.

"Do you not call it a colloquy in this correspondence?" demanded Capt. Lemly sharply.

"Well I know THE NEW YORK SUN called it a colloquy," said Mr. Hodgson.

Capt. Lemly pressed for an answer to his question, but before it could be given by the witness, Capt. Parker of Admiral Schley's counsel interrupted with an objection, and in the discussion that followed the matter of whether Hodgson did or did not speak of the conversation as a colloquy was forgotten.

When the Judge Advocate produced the letters that had passed between Schley and Hodgson, Admiral Dewey showed a disposition not to have them read, because it would take up too much time, but Capt. Lemly convinced him that it was a necessary proceeding under Article X of the Precept, which directed the court to report conclusions on this point: "The circumstances leading to and the incidents and results of a controversy with Lieutenant Alton C. Hodgson, U.S.N., who on July 3, 1898, during the battle of Santiago, was navigator of the Brooklyn, in relation to the turning of the Brooklyn, and the ensuing correspondence between them on the subject thereof, and the propriety of the conduct of Admiral Schley in the premises."

An objection by Admiral Schley's counsel to the reading of an editorial from THE SUN of July 2, to which reference was made in one of the Schley-Hodgson letters, was another incident of the session. After a brief consultation with his colleagues, Rear Admirals Benham and Ramsay, it was announced by Admiral Dewey that newspaper articles which formed part of the correspondence could be read.

With the correction made to-day by Mr. Hodgson in regard to the omission of Capt. Cook's name from the original "Hard aport" from Schley, the famous colloquy or conversation should read (according to the Brooklyn's navigator) as follows:

Schley: Look out, Cook, they (the Spaniards) are going to ram you.

Cook: Eli looks out for that or words to the contrary.

Schley: Hard aport.

Hodgson: Commander, if you go to starboard you will run into the Texas. Schley: Damn the Texas! I can't help that; I must look out for myself. I don't propose to be in any place and subject myself to torpedo attack.

Mr. Hodgson appeared inside the bar of the court while the Judge Advocate and Admiral Schley's attorneys were engaged in a discussion over the punctuation of the colloquy and what part of the sentence might be in Admiral Schley's expression.

The Brooklyn's Navigator remained standing for a while until Capt. Lemly in a kindly voice, asked him to sit down. When the discussion was over Admiral Dewey, in consideration of the importance of the naval regulations, warned the witness that he was still under oath and he gammoned

tion was begun. Capt. Lemly addressed him rather sharply at times.

LIEUT. HODGSON'S TESTIMONY.
By the Judge Advocate—Mr. Hodgson, will you look at page 571 of your testimony which you gave yesterday? A. Yes.

Q. You say that at that time of the record you state, "I heard the Commodores sing out, 'Hard aport, Cook,' or words to that effect, and Capt. Cook sang out to him." The helm is aport? Is that correctly quoted? A. I heard the Commodores sing out, "Hard aport, Cook," or words to that effect, and then Capt. Cook sang out to him.

Q. You did not say "Cook"? A. Not so far as I recollect. I did not hear him say "Hard aport, Cook."

Capt. Parker: This is an impeachment of the stenographer.

The Judge Advocate: If you will excuse me one moment, I am asking questions.

The witness: No, not so far as I did not say so far as I recollect, I did not hear the Admiral say, "Hard aport, Cook." If I did say it in my testimony yesterday.

By the Judge Advocate—If you said it yesterday, it was wrong? A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember anything else you said yesterday that was wrong? A. I have never looked over my testimony. I may have said a great deal that was wrong. I have not looked over my testimony of yesterday.

Q. Referring now to the answer, "Capt. Cook sang out." The helm is aport? Are we to understand by Capt. Cook's answer that the helm was already aport when the Commodores gave the order, "Hard aport," that the answer by Capt. Cook that the helm is aport was merely a response to the Commodore? Schley's order, when it has been complied with? A. What is very plain to me that Capt. Cook meant to inform the Commodore that the helm was aport when he got the order to port it.

Q. That it was already aport? A. Undoubtedly.

Q. I don't think it is "undoubtedly" several of us misunderstood it. A. Well, I understand it that way, "Hard aport."

The helm is aport? They were almost simultaneous, as I understand it, the answer and the order. My understanding was that the helm was aport when Capt. Cook received the order from the Commodore.

Q. That is what I want to know. Mr. Hodgson, you had some correspondence with Commodore Schley and with THE NEW YORK SUN concerning this group of letters. Do you know the name of the Brooklyn's captain? A. Out of the alleged colloquy?

Q. Do you not call it a colloquy in this correspondence? A. Well, I know THE NEW YORK SUN did not do it in its place in this correspondence, speak of it as a colloquy? A. Well.

Capt. Parker: If the Court please, we rather object to the Judge Advocate's taking him off witness to ask him questions, as we are investigating this part of the correspondence and is necessary in determining as to what was the property of Commodore Schley in the premises.

Q. You do not do it in its place in this correspondence, speak of it as a colloquy? A. Well.

The Judge Advocate: We don't contend for one moment that any allegations that may be made in the evidence against Admiral Schley are true, but in the course of this investigation of the Brooklyn's captain, did you note? A. Out of the alleged colloquy?

Q. Do you not call it a colloquy in this correspondence? A. Well, I know THE NEW YORK SUN did not do it in its place in this correspondence, speak of it as a colloquy? A. Well.

The Judge Advocate: Will you take the statement from me now that Admiral Schley says he never saw it and never received it?

The Judge Advocate: You have made that statement.

Mr. Rayner: I say now that if that is true, if that is correct, why should it either be read in evidence or go on the record?

The Judge Advocate: That would not affect the record for it at all.

Mr. Rayner: Then if he never received that editorial and never read it, and yet it hangs on this record, then you can read all the editorials in THE NEW YORK SUN and they go in the first record.

The Judge Advocate: I say now that the Court has an absolute waste of time because the Court has got to read these papers and the public can all read them when they go out in the papers. That is a matter for you to determine. That is a formal objection of mine, but my substantial objection is that I don't think the records ought to be stained with these calumnies against Admiral Schley.

The President: The court will take a short recess.

The court adjourned at 12:32 P.M. to continue its session at 12:33 P.M. resuming its session.

The President: The Court decides that any clipping from newspapers which form a part of the correspondence between Admiral Schley and Lieutenant-Commander Hodgson should properly be read.

Mr. Rayner: May it please the Court, as to this particular editorial there is no evidence that it forms a part of any correspondence or that it was ever received by Admiral Schley.

The President: Then, under our ruling, it ought not to be read.

The Judge Advocate: I want to say that the letter does show, however, and I invite the attention of counsel to the fact that the letter says, "Dear Admiral Schley." The NEW YORK SUN of July 2, 1898, is an editorial in which mention is made of many newspapers that question my veracity, and so forth.

Mr. Rayner: If the Court will observe, this clipping is not enclosed in the letter. Now, Admiral Schley is not supposed to have read all the editorials in THE NEW YORK SUN.

The President: That ought not to be read, then.

The Judge Advocate: To that objection, to that witness, to that reading of that letter.

The Judge Advocate: No, the letter has already been read.

Mr. Rayner: The Court directs that the editorial shall not be read.

The President: Is that letter to call attention to an edition which was not read in the letter, as was the case in the letter produced by Capt. Lemly?

Mr. Rayner: That is correct.

Capt. Parker: Is that editorial to go upon record?

Mr. Rayner: Of course not.

The Judge Advocate: It will not go on the record unless it is read.

Capt. Parker: Then it should be considered as stricken out.

The Judge Advocate: It is stricken from the record.

The President: Anything which was enclosed forming a part of the correspondence should be read.

Capt. Parker: But the Court having decided that that editorial shall not be read, it will not be copied in the record?

The Judge Advocate: That is the clipping referred to from Schley to Hodgson, asking for a denial of this oft repeated calumny, the alleged colloquy on board the Brooklyn.

The Judge Advocate started to read the clipping enclosed with the foregoing letter.

Mr. Rayner: What is this, Captain? excuse me.

The Judge Advocate: That is the clipping from THE NEW YORK SUN, the editorial that is referred to in the letter of Commodore Schley.

Mr. Rayner: I just want to get the run of it. I have THE NEW YORK SUN, I want to follow it.

Capt. Parker: It is not printed, there probably is not.

Mr. Rayner: Yes, it is.

The Judge Advocate read the clipping from THE NEW YORK SUN, 1898.

Other letters were read and identified in connection with the reading of the letter of July 3, from Hodgson to Schley, the following occurring:

Capt. Parker: What is that word? "Bastard" or "Dastard?"

Mr. Rayner: Bastard.

Capt. Parker: It is B-a-s-t-a-r-d?—Yes.

Capt. Parker: I just wanted to know that it was read correctly.

The Judge Advocate read the letter of July 3, from Schley to Hodgson, asking for a denial of this oft repeated calumny, the alleged colloquy on board the Brooklyn.

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Capt. Parker: It is not printed, there probably is not.

Mr. Rayner: Yes, it is.

The Judge Advocate: That is the clipping from THE NEW YORK SUN.

The President: No, I don't think so.

Capt. Parker: These things can be printed. You are taking up valuable time by the reading

We want facts, we do not want newspaper articles. We have ruled out newspaper and magazine articles.

The Judge Advocate: If the Court please we cannot investigate this particular matter without witnesses.

The President: Can they not be printed?

The Judge Advocate: They would then be in evidence. Does the Court mean that you do not want them at all, or that you do not want to read them?

The President: We do not want to read them.

The Judge Advocate: You are going to read them.

Capt. Parker: We do not object to your reading anything if you will give us the usual opportunity to cross-examine people in reference to them.

The Judge Advocate: You are going to have that opportunity at the proper time.

Capt. Parker: But you ought not to lumber up the record with such things as you may consider pertinent without giving us an opportunity to cross-examine on the points.

Mr. Rayner: I will tell you what we want. We want everything that passed between Lieutenant-Commander Hodgson and Admiral Schley that belongs to this controversy, but we would not like to have this record contain editorials of THE NEW YORK SUN either against Admiral Schley or against any other Admiral, or in favor of him, or anything else which never was sent to Admiral Schley at all.

The Judge Advocate: Oh, I beg your pardon.

Mr. Rayner: That was not sent in any letter to Admiral Schley. He says it was not.

The Judge Advocate: It is really a part of the record, evidence, and is referred to in the later parts of the record.

Q. You do not do it in its place in this correspondence, speak of it as a colloquy? A. Out of the alleged colloquy?

The Judge Advocate: We don't contend for one moment that any allegations that may be made in the evidence against Admiral Schley are true, but in the course of this investigation of the Brooklyn's captain, did you note? A. Out of the alleged colloquy?

Q. Do you not call it a colloquy in this correspondence? A. Well, I know THE NEW YORK SUN did not do it in its place in this correspondence, speak of it as a colloquy? A. Well.

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